List of drugs sold at higher prices

†*274. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that patients have to pay several hundred times more than the actual cost of the common drugs; and

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the names of the drugs which are being sold at the cost more than hundred per cent of actual costs by the sellers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) and (b) Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(c) and (d) No case has come to the notice of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) where the patients have to pay several hundred times more than the actual cost of the common drugs. The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO,95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by NPPA in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO,95. Para 7 of DPCO,95 gives formula for the calculation of the retail price of a formulation by NPPA and it provides for inclusion in the retail price of Maximum Allowable Post-manufacturing Expenses (MAPE) not exceeding 100% for indigenously manufactured formulations. MAPE means all costs incurred by a manufacturer from the stage of ex-factory cost to retailing and includes trade margin and margin for the manufacturer. Similarly, in case of an imported formulation, the landed cost forms the basis for fixing its price by NPPA alongwith such margin to cover selling and distribution expenses including interest and importer's profit which should not exceed fifty percent of the landed cost. Prices of non-scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

Crop estimates

*275. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) latest estimate of production of major agricultural commodities during the current year 2003-04;

(b) actual production during the preceding year;

(c) what are the reasons for the rise/fall; and

(d) whether there is a rise in per capita availability of foodgrains, considering the mid-year estimate of population, as compared to last year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) and (b) The estimated production of foodgrains, oilseeds, cotton, jute and sugarcane during 2003-04 *vis-a-vis* 2002-03 may be seen from the enclosed Statement (*See* below). As per the First Advance Estimates for Kharif crops of 2003-04, the production of Kharif rice is 75.05 million tonnes, which is 12.8% more than the estimated Kharif rice production of 2002-03. The production of Kharif coarse cereals is estimated at 27.96 million tonnes, which is 38.9% more than the corresponding production level of last year. The production of Kharif pulses during 2003-04 is estimated at 5.44 million tonnes, which is 41.7% more than the corresponding figure last year while the production of Kharif oilseeds is estimated at 15.08 million tonnes, which is 63.6% more than the corresponding figure last year. In the case of cotton and jute also, the estimated production in 2003-04 is higher than that in 2002-03. However, the estimated production of sugarcane at 261.37 million tonnes during 2003-04 is 6.2% less than the last year's production, which reflects the fall in production of sugarcane in Maharashtra due to incidence of pests.

(c) The favourable rainfall received from the South-West monsoon contributed significantly to higher production of agricultural commodities